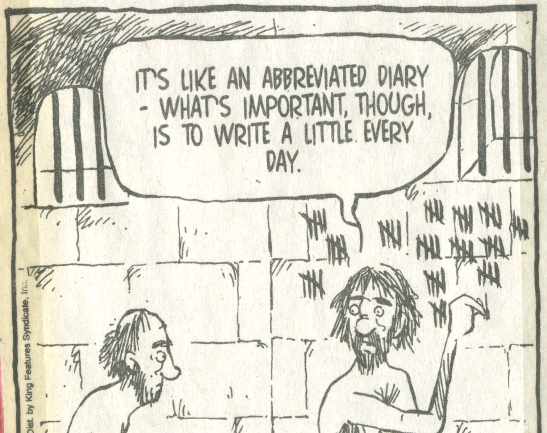
RECORD

PARDON MY PLANET


IT'S LIKE AN ABBREVIATED DIARY - WHAT'S IMPORTANT, THOUGH, IS TO WRITE A LITTLE EVERY DAY.
LEE 2-6

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May 11, 1942:— Orders for evacuation finally appeared on the telephone poles and in the shop windows. This order which affected the area around 410 So Crocker, where we have lived to date, was Civilian Exclusion order No. 66. After noon today, most of the areas of Los Angeles will be ~~x~~ barred from all persons of Japanese ancestry. After today, noon, the area where I can walk is limited so that I can't go further north than E. Third St.; further south than E. Sixth St; further west than So. Main St.; and further east than about three or four miles.

May 12:— Registration for evacuation took place today at the old Southern Pacific Railway Station.

May 14:— Medical examinations (very cursory in details), so-called to appease the public, no doubt, were given today at the S.P. Depot. We are to leave from this station for Manzanar, California 6:30 a.m. (scheduled departure) Saturday morning, May 16.

May 16:— We remained awake the whole night of the 15th and the entire morning of the 16th packing and re-packing our baggage. By about 4:00 a.m (16th) (Sat.), we were all packed and ready to go. At about 5:45 a.m., Mr. Wendell Warden and I loaded a car with some of the stuff and left for the Southern Pacific Railway Station. By luck, we loaded all our heavy, bulky articles into a freight by 6:15 am car. Mrs. Warden (Lillie) and Billy, her son, stayed with us until we ~~f~~ left by bus (not train, as we formerly supposed) for Manzanar, California which was 8:30 a.m. Our departure was scheduled for 6:30 a.m. We arrived at Manzanar at 3:00 PM. The trip took approximately five

hours, since there were two rest periods. At noon, we spent one hour eating lunch and stretching our legs. Our new home is Block 19, Building 9, Apartment A section 2; Owens Valley Reception Center; Manzanar, California. The change is really terrific and, as yet, I do not especially enjoy this location; however, this is only my first day. I met Shizuo Hori again. We, Shiz, Chizuru Nakaji, and I, are planning to try to organize a news observing and appreciating club or something, following the suggestions of Mr. Richardson. Sunday, May 17, we shall try to draft a constitution for this club. Prospective members are Shizuo Hori, Chizuru Nakaji, Walter Watanabe, Tom Watanabe, Nori Masuda, Grace Natsume, Paul Ichino, and Paul H. Kusuda.

May 17:— Breakfast consisted of boiled ham, fried custard (?)

applesauce, toast, butter (?), and cocoa (?).
Lunch was salomi (?), apple pie (1½"x1") cheese, pea and carrots, beets, bread, butter, and tea (black).
Supper was rice, gravy, roast lamb (?), salad, corn, and water.

The constitution was not drafted. We, Shizuo, Chizuru, Tom, Nori, and I decided to forgo the drafting. Another list of prospective people who might be interested in the idea was made.

May 19: — The camp gave us typhoid and small-pox injections today. — for free. Shiz and Tom Watanabe dropped in to see me. We sort of ~~planed~~ planned for our tutorship(?) classes. But, as yet, nothing definite has happened.

May 21: — Chiz Nakaji & Shiz Hori and I wrote a letter to ~~John~~ Dr. Lester K. Ade; Social Security Board; 785 Market St.; San Francisco, California. The duplicate is placed at the front of

the book (#1). A few days ago a sentry shot a young fellow of about 18 years because he crossed a sentry line (un-verified, but seems authentic). What a disgusting display of so-called "democratic ideals." Such action really lowers one's idea of American ideals. What is taught in schools and what is occurring here are two different entities. I am disgusted!

May 22: — Today, at the Main Library of Manzanar Reception Center, I wrote a "Report On Tutoring Classes". Chizuru and Shizuo checked it over and revised it a little. A duplicate is placed in the front of the book (#2). We plan to have a meeting of the prospective students and tutors May 25 (Mon) at 8:00 pm at B 7-2-2. Notices will be sent to the persons who are involved.

May 25: — Yesterday and today — both dusty and hot. Yesterday, we had a first meeting of the club to discuss news about and concerning Nisei. We have six charter members: Shizuo Hori, Chizuru Nakaji, Tom Watanabe, Walter Watanabe, Hisayuki Ogimachi, and Paul H. Kusuda. Two others, Paul Ichino and Kenji Horita, may be admitted to the club as charter members. Today, I sent letters to the President of the United States, (#3), Dr. Robert Fitch; Occidental College; L.A., Calif., (#4), and Reverend Fred Fertig, 822 E. 20th St., L.A. Calif. (#5). According to Mrs. Nance of 1212 Strand, Manhattan Beach, Calif., we college students (former) have a chance to continue our education. (#4) was sent to see about the possibilities — whether great or small.

May 28:— Today, I took my second typhoid shot. I was supposed to take it two days ago, but I was sick. Last evening, from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M., we waited for students to come to our tutoring classes. According to the meeting which was held with the prospective students on May 25, we expected some kind of a turn out,

but, no one came. About 30 notices were sent out for the meeting of the 25th and about 12 or 15 came. Then, not one came to our classes. At 8:30 P.M., we had our second meeting of the club. The topic for discussion was "The Education for Nisei Evacuees". Shizuo Hori was chairman for the meeting. So far, Kenji Horita has not appeared for any meeting. Perhaps he does not have the available time. Perhaps, he is not interested. Perhaps, he has not been notified.

May 30:— Memorial Day. So far, not many people (students, that is) have taken the trouble to come to the place where we tutors have been waiting. For my class of English, not one person has come —— yet, even though I have gone to the place ~~dg~~ designated on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Perhaps they do not need our help. Perhaps they aren't interested in the plan.

June 5: — Completed the final typhoid shot yesterday. Yesterday, an outline for Life Science I came from Miss Swain. This morning at 8:00 a.m., I went to each of six people listed in a letter from Miss Swain. In answer to my urgings, all came to study. They copied part of the outline which they are to do. On Monday, we shall mail all the work in. To date, I have visited Mr. & Mrs. Tsuyama three times. A new class for junior high and high school students will be started on behest of 18 mothers located in Blocks 23 & 24. I have tried to get a job, but, so far, nothing has happened. They refused me since an electrical engineer has nothing to do with education. I tried to get some kind — any kind of a position in the forth-coming Educational Department which is extremely needed by the people here.

ALL WAS DONE.

June 14: — Attended first symphony under the stars. It lasted until 10 P.M. It started about 8:30 P.M. Prior to that I attended a meeting where education for junior and high schools students was discussed. A Mrs. Y. Nakamura presided. The meeting wasted a lot of time. In 23-15, instead of 18 mothers, about 45 showed up. The first enrollment of students showed 135 senior and junior high school students. All classes were tabulated, classes were set up, and a general schedule was presented to the students. Soon, no doubt, there will be a camp-wide arrangement for schooling. Until such a time that Dr. Carter (a lady) who is to be in charge of education here at Manzanar arrives, things will be in a muddle. I have seen a Mr. Temple, one of the administrators here already. He seems rather interested, but I didn't pursue the subject too far.

June 28:- Shizuo Hori was appointed field supervisor of secondary level education by Dr. Carter. Now, regular tutoring classes have been started. In the morning, two hours have been set aside (9 to 11) when students may study at a designated mess-hall. Yesterday, Mr. & Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Coan, Mr. Lombardi, Danny Bannerman, Helen Brania, and Talbot together with others to make a party of ten, visited us from 10:30 am to 5 P.M. We took a tour of the camp after we all ate lunch in Mess-hall #1. For the first time since I came to Manzanar, I saw the river which passes only about 250' from the southern boundary of the camp.

After the visiting parties went home, I attended a weenie bake sponsored by the information offices which are to disband soon. Ritsuko Nakaji invited me. That was the first social event in Manzanar for me.

July 5:- A few days ago, we moved from B 19—9—2 to B 32—3—3. It must have been around July 1, 1942. Tomorrow, we are to have linoleum placed on the floor. Today, we went to a "picnic" which was camp-wide. Nothing much happened. However, we were served FREE watermelon. In the evening, I attended another "Symphony Under the Stars" affairs where I heard recordings of works by Victor Herbert, Stephen C. Foster, and Strauss. Prior to that, I attended a meeting of all the workers in the Census Department where I have been working since June 17 in the capacity of Senior File Clerk. At the meeting, all the workers were introduced to a person who came to replace our boss so far. Her name is Miss Bowneck* (phonetic spelling). Tomorrow, I intend to send a special delivery letter to Mr. McEntire regarding our boss, Mr. George Shigekawa.

* MISS BONACK

July 13:- I attended the funeral of Sho Onodera's father who passed away on July 7, 1942. This was the first funeral I have ever attended. It was held in a recreation hall. About 200 persons were present.

July 29:- Today I attended the meeting of the Block Leader's Council of which I am now a member. Each barrack selects one person to be the Council member. I still cannot figure out how I was chosen.

On July 27, I went to a preliminary ~~mett~~ meeting for the newly projected organization tentatively called the Manzanar Citizens Federation. This meeting was held in Togo Tanaka's place. About 10 people (the majority JACL members) were there. Koji Ariyoshi who led the workers to Rupert, Idaho for beet-thinning was chairman.

On July 28, I went to the first public meeting of the Manzanar Citizens Federation. The four aims are: I. Improving camp conditions. II Education of citizens for leadership. III. Participation in the War effort. IV. Preparing evacuees for post-war America. If the principles are adhered to and if the people are not out for personal and/or political gains, something good might come out. Koji Ariyoshi was elected practically unanimously as temporary chairman until such a time that a constitution for the organization be drafted and accepted and a president elected. Three secretaries (pro-tem) were elected from the floor.

August 1: Tonight, there was another block meeting to discuss co-operatives. On July 30, it was decided to postpone any actual decisions until tonight. At tonight's meeting, Mr. Poole, Assistant Supervisor of Co-operatives (in Manzanar, I presume) enlightened the people on the various aspects and problems and advantages of having a co-operative enterprise. After a question and answer session, three delegates to the congress of co-operative planning (or some-thing) were elected. I was fortunate enough to be one of the three. Unfortunately, there were no other Nisei (beside myself) who attended the meeting. However, tonight, there was a showing of the movie, "Play-mates" with Kay Kyser and John Barrymore.

August 9:- I have typed the record of meetings held on Mon. Aug. 3, Tues., Aug. 4, Thurs. Aug. 6. and Sat. Aug. 8. They are in the supplement. Today, it really rained for the first time since we came to Manzanar. It sprinkled once, but the moisture was very slight.

August 14:- Today, I was paid $7.75 for the work between June 17 & June 31. This has been the first time that I was paid since I started to work on June 17th.

September 1:- Today, I was paid $16.00. On Sunday, Aug. 30, Mr. & Mrs. Richardson, Talbot, and Anna (something or other — Shobeck, I think) came to Manzanar. They were going to go camping.

On August 21, Mr. Richardson and a Mrs. Engberg from Poly High came to Manzanar to interview people who had sent questionnaires to the Student Relocation Council.

September 7:— Labor Day. We all worked today since it is wartime. However, many people did not work in the afternoon.

September 10:— Big sand and dust storm began about 4:00 p.m. At about 4:15 p.m., it also began to rain. The rain "wet-down" the ground so that the dust didn't fly. The wind blew hard — boy — was it cold!! At present, I am still working as liaison man (coordinating factor) between the Community Services Department under Mr. Temple and Dr Carter, Superintendent of Education in Manzanar. I am also to be a sort of a trouble shooter for Mr Temple's office. I am responsible to only George Akahoshi and Mr Temple.

September 24;— Last night, there was a block meeting to discuss the putting in of walls and ceilings. It was decided that we do the work voluntarily. Then, since Hiro Neano, our

Block Leader, is going to Idaho on a work furlough, we were supposed to hold a re-election. Nothing happened tonight & no one was elected. Everyone declined ~~the~~ his nomination.

Yesterday and the day before marked the first days of departure of the boys going to Montana to work in the fields. My brother is to go to Idaho soon.

September 25:— My brother left for ~~B~~ Rexberg, Idaho by Greyhound Bus at about 5:30 p.m.

October 3:— Today, we put in plasterboard ceilings and walls.

October 10:— Last night at Bishop, Mr. Marshall Miller was killed in an airplane class. He was Principal of the elementary school. I found out at 8:30 a.m. I guess everyone was stunned. He was such a nice fellow.

October 12:— It snowed up in the two mountain ranges located on both side of us. Oct 10 marked the first day of these continued days of coldness.

Nov. 11; Bill returned from Idaho. Made a few dollars, so he felt rather good.

December 6: Last night (sat) at approximately 10 P.M., Fred Tayama was beaten up. He was taken to the Hospital here in Manzanar. It seemed that he must have told the internal police (Manzanar police) about one of the people who attacked him. That person, a mess-hall worker, was picked up and sent to a jail in Independence. Apparently, the mess hall workers did not like the idea very much, so they began to make themselves heard.

This afternoon, at one of the mess-halls (the mess-hall where the person picked up formerly worked), a meeting was held. I did not attend since I knew nothing about it all. According to what I have been able to gather, a group of people wanted that fellow released. They had a protest meeting.

Little by little, more and more people gathered around. Finally it was suggested that a group of people delegate themselves as a committee to see about obtaining a release. All the people wanted to tag along. By this time, quite a crowd had gathered.

En masse, the whole audience at the meeting began to go toward the administration buildings about a half a mile or so away. Someone reported this to the police who apparently called the Military Police because when the crowd of people finally got to ~~their~~ its destination, ~~they~~ it found some U.S. soldiers (armed heavily) waiting for them. Evidently, this did not faze the people (men, women, and children). They stood around and began to denounce certain characters in Manzanar (Japanese Americans) as traitors and dogs. Then, they announced that they wanted the release of other people who are now in the Manzanar jail for a sentence of six months. In addition, certain Center administrators were threatened.

The crowd was ordered to disperse, but it refused. By this time, the crowd increased and the soldiers numbered about thirty. According to my brother and others, the soldiers had rifles and revolvers. In addition some had portable machine guns and there was one gun emplacement set up.

By this time, it was near supper-time, so most of the people returned home. After supper, ~~a~~ another meeting was held at the mess-hall where the previous one took place. Then, the crowd was divided into two sections — one group went to the hospital and the other group went to the Police Station. There, they milled

around discussing, cussing, and occasionally yelling or shouting.

Tonight, there was supposed to be an Open Forum Discussion featuring Mrs. Lucy Adams, Regional Director of Education and Recreation. Due to the tension of everyone in the Center, it was called off. Shizuo Hori and I were delegated to tell Mrs. Adams what had occurred.

We headed toward the Administration Housing. At about fifty feet from the Houses, we heard someone say, "Halt." We walked on one more step. Then, we saw a soldier. He said, "Halt" again. We stopped immediately. Then, he presumably cleared his rifle for action — we heard the bolt click. Then, he asked us what we wanted. Shizuo kept quiet. I said that we wanted to see

Mrs. Adams and then stated our business. Prior to this, he tried calling the Corporal of the Guard, but he was unsuccessful. We were able to go to the house and saw Dr. Carter.

After that, we left the vicinity quickly — Shizuo and I. He went home while I went to visit the Onodera household since Sho had gone to the Army and left all the rest of the family behind. I stayed there a short while and then returned home.

The topic for discussion was the current happenings. At about 10:10 p.m., someone went through our Block rousing everyone. The dinner bell was rung a number of times. I immediately went to the mess-hall where meetings are usually held. My brother and my father followed me. About 20 people were gathered around the back steps of the mess-hall.

It was terribly cold.

Shivering there in the cold, I found out that the soldiers had thrown a couple of tear gas bombs into the mob (it had gotten to that proportion by that time even though it was so cold) and then had shot a number of times. About four people were hit — one a youth of about 18.

The block people (all men) who had gathered decided to go to the scene of action (they were prompted by someone) and my father and my brother both went to see what was happening.

The extremely odd thing was that all the mess hall gongs were being struck at almost the same time. The whole thing seems to have been very well planned and executed. It is now near midnight and they haven't come back. They returned — nothing more had happened and the crowd had begun to disperse.

December 7 1:00 AM — All is relatively quiet today. At breakfast time, we saw posters which were put up by somebody not in the administration. It said that school will not be held today. All workers were told to stay at home.

According to information gleaned today, seven people were shot and injured, three were disabled rather badly by the tear gas, and two were killed. One fellow is now in the Hospital in a critical state. He had seven bullets in him. (On the back)

Last night one person was beaten up in a mess-hall because the crowd didn't like him. I have heard that he was killed. The people who beat him up used wooden poles and one person wielded a hammer.

I have heard that the

entire internal police force (all Nisei) have quit. Some of the people who quit ripped their badges from their shirts and flung them on the ground.

DECEMBER 7: — 6:00PM. Martial law was declared according to a bulletin in the Mess-hall. Colonel Mueller in charge. There will be no incoming or outgoing mail. The bulletin said that schools will be open, but the block manager said that schools are closed. Something isn't clicking there.

December 8: 11:00 AM. — School is supposed to be running. I went to the office to find out this morning. The teachers were at their respective classes yesterday. Today, they were there again in the morning. A group of ~~Tea~~ people locked some of the teachers in their classrooms and said some foul things so Dr. Carter called all the teachers away from the classes. This morning, I found out from my father that the black list consists of about

70 names. I am also included on the list, it seems. The people on the black list have a chance of being beaten up by a mob.

December 8:- 12:30 PM. According to an announcement made at the mess-hall during lunch, nothing will be allowed to run. There will be no schools and no offices open. All block residents were told to wear something black on their left sleeve. It is supposed to denote mourning for the people killed and wounded that night. Block residents were urged to stay near their homes.

December 8:- 8:00 pm. It looks as though another of the victims has died. Nothing much has happened today.

December 9:- 7:00 PM. Upon the urgings of my parents, I packed my suit case in order that I may be ready to leave if and when the soldiers come after me. It seems that many people have been rounded

up by the soldiers for protective custody. According to my mother, about fifty people have been taken out of Manzanar for safety.

This evening mail dating to before Dec. 6 was distributed. As yet there has been no announcement as to the fact that mail will be allowed to go out of Manzanar.

December 10:- Today, I heard a rumor to the effect that outgoing mail will be allowed. Three girls talking to each other were the target of some soldiers bullets. ~~Appart~~ Apparently, the soldiers wanted to frighten the girls since no one was hurt.

December 11 — All persons were notified to eat at their own mess-halls. There must be some sort of a food shortage. Today, I was warned not to post any letters. The mail box (about a mile away) is being carefully watched and people posting letters will be beaten up in all probability.

Germany has nothing on us right now. What a hell of a way to live.

I have learned that a delegation of six residents who went to the administration to try to negotiate some sort of a settlement did not return. They were apprehended and put under guard. A second group has not been sent as yet. It's quiet now — like the calm before the storm. At present it isn't safe to talk, write, walk around, go out at night, typewrite (for fear that a report might be written), or even *think*. It's dangerous to do anything! Rule is by violence. One never knows who the next person to be attacked will be. The only safe thing to do is to be quiet and docile. We still haven't worked at our jobs. What will await anyone who works is made rather evident.

John Sonoda, who was beaten up by a gang because he was thought to be an informer of some type, is expected to recover; however, he will not be entirely sane again. He used to be rather intelligent. He worked as a book-keeper prior to evacuation.

December 12 — Yesterday, at supper-time, it was announced that another of the gun shot victims died at 8:00 a.m.

A couple of days ago, probably around Dec. 8 or 9, all of the teachers were evacuated from Manzanar. They are now living in Lone Pine and in Independence.

This morning, a notice was put up in the mess-hall. It was without signature. In very good English (as is not the case with the previous notices put up recently), it tried to state reasons for the conflict now. It appeared to be flagrantly untrue, but if people believed it all (and most people will, no doubt), the government is all wrong in *all* it has done. Now, according to that notice, one of the issues is that Ueno (the man in custody of the Army for attacking Tayama) was so persecuted by the officials because he was supposed to have some information which would prove that one of the Caucasions worked some graft with the sugar supply at Manzanar. Ueno is supposed to have other "proofs" also.

Another issue is the idea of the people who were interned in camps. This notice accuses the Government of placing FBI informers in WRA camps. It is felt that these informers were responsible entirely for the people who were hauled away and jailed at the outbreak of the war. It is felt that all (according to my interpretation of the notice, I read it through only twice) of the internees were placed in concentration camps without proof of guilt. Undoubtedly, in some cases, this is true, but such cases will be released as soon as these facts are ascertained. In

* SEE PAGE 33

regard to the case of the internees, the group responsible* for putting up the posters want unconditional release of all the internees!

This evening, another ~~poster~~ notice was put up (this again in very good English) appealing to all "descendents of the Japanese race". It urged all such persons not to relocate outside of Manzanar until everything is settled. It tried to appeal to the sense of loyalty towards their fellow people. It said that all of the people in America must see the situation "as we see it".

December 13 — Today, I learned from Shiz Hori that the school teachers are now working in the Administration building. Many of them have returned from Independence & Lone Pine and are again living on the project.

Apparently, schools will be closed until the beginning of January.

According to Shiz, the Project

Director Ralph Merritt feels that the Residents of Manzanar do not want to return to work. He has decided to hire Caucasians to work in essential lines. Then, the evacuees will not be permitted to work at all. That means then that the evacuees will not receive any income. Up to this date, Merritt has not issued any statement to this effect, but he expects the people to go back to work without such a notice. He seems to have one point of view. The resident have no point of view. The dominating society has another point of view. Everything is not running smoothly between the administration and the residents. One does not know how the other think. There is no co-ordination anywhere.

From Shig, I learned that not all the people shot on Dec 6 were shot in the back. One

(Continued on Page 41)

"The group responsible" — About ~~two~~ 3 months ago, a Community Charter Commission of seventeen people was appointed by Mr. Roy Nash, then the Project Director. The method of the appointment was this: At a Block Leaders' Meeting (each block in Manzanar — 36 in all — elected one person to represent the block in all matters. This was the Block Leader) where all Block Leaders gather once a week to discuss problems and work out solutions, it was announced that a Charter Commission would be formed. Each Block Leader was given a chance to name some people who~~m~~ he felt were capable of serving on such a committee as to formulate a Community Charter. About seventy names were submitted — many names suggested by more than one person. The names were ranked in order by the number of times each name was mentioned. Mr. Nash then formally appointed the top seventeen names. According to the Administration, this was done to facilitate matters. The seventeen members got busy and with constant referring to Administrative Bulletins from Washington DC on certain policies already set, a Charter was made. It stipulated that a Community Council would be formed and then delegated certains power to it.

Finally, ~~B it was~~ the Charter was completed. A copy in English and one in Japanese was distributed to each apartment in Manzanar. A date, November 9, 1942, was set when the people would have an opportunity to either accept or reject the Charter. If the people accepted this means of "self-government" (a misnomer to which almost everyone objected) the Charter would immediately be put into operation. If the people rejected the Charter, a new one would be drafted and put before the people. What everyone did not know is that the Project Director has the authority to force the people to accept the ~~p~~ Charter if necessary — vote or no vote.

About a month prior to November 9, posters were put on all mess-halls denouncing "self-government." It was signed the "Blood-Brother" — thus translated from the Japanese language. The notice was printed in Japanese entirely. It was rather ~~vic~~ vicious in tone. The Police (internal Police) tore the notices down from each of the mess-halls before noon. A slight attempt to trace the "Blood-brothers" was made but soon abandoned.

About two weeks prior to November 9, each of the seventeen Commission members received ~~threatenings~~ at least one threatening note from the "Blood-Brothers." These notes were very outspoken. Again, efforts made to trace these persons were proven to be futile. No publicity of this was given. Immediately, a Commissioners' Meeting was called. It was brought out at that meeting that the Commissioners were intending to resign since the Charter was already completed. But in view of the fact that the threatening letters had demanded the resignation of the Commission members, some of the people felt that such action would look as though they were quitting under fire. However, it finally ended by the Commissioners deciding to resign. Prior to resigning, it was decided that the November 9 deadline for voting of acceptance or rejection should be postponed until November 30. This was done to allow time for the people to find out what the Charter contained. Also, by that time, it was felt that the majority of the beet-field workers would return.

After the Charter Commissioners resigned, it seemed that many of the Issei and Kibei were still disgruntled about the whole thing. They didn't care for the manner in which the Commissioners were appointed. They didn't care for certain rulings embodied in the Charter. The administration decided that a new Commission should be formed, two

representatives from each of the thirty-five blocks, by election within each block.

Example of how the "election" of the two representives was held in Block# 32: Two nights before the "election", a block meeting was called to show the block members various fire-fighting apparatus and to discuss the Charter. Most of the Nisei knew something about hand-pumps, soda-~~water~~ ACID extinguishers, etc., and most of the Nisei read the Charter if they were in the least interested in it. In addition, there were night classes going on. Because of this all of the Nisei except me stayed away from that meeting. There were about 30 to 40 Issei and Kibei at that meeting. I attended (ditching my shorthand class) because I was the representative of our ~~block~~. BARRACK.

The meeting was conducted solely in Japanese. I caught the gist of things, but not everything. First, the fire-fighting equipment was displayed. Then, the speaker, a Kibei fireman, explained what the Block residents should do in case of a fire. Then, discussion revolved around the nominating of people for the election two days hence. Two people were nominated — both Kibei. This was really against the rules since the election was supposed to be an Open Election with anyone over 18 eligible to vote or be elected.

On the day of election, I was surprized to find that no one had voted. By then, it was the last half hour of the polls being open. Then, I discovered that some people were not allowed to vote. Then it came out. What I had thought was merely the nomination was in reality appointment. A farce was being perpetaated.

This idea not acceptable to a couple of us, we protested. At first our protests were of no ~~aw~~ avail, but finally, a new election was called. Ballots were taken to each house and filled out while the person taking the ballot waited for them.

This was the first time that I had ever seen an election run off this way. The end result was that the two Kibei were "elected." DEMOCRACY IN ACTION!

All of the ~~Of~~ New Commissioners who were elected met with the new Project Director, Ralph Merritt. The meeting dragged on and nothing was accomplished except that final discussion would be tabled. Many people here were outspokenly against any type of self-government.

"Since the army put us here, why can't the army run us?"

"We've got along all right so far without self-government, why should we have it now?"

"How can we have self-government in a place surrounded by barb-wired fences?"

These are some of the underlying thoughts expressed. Most of the ~~Co~~ New Commissioners were Issei and Kibei. Only a very few were Nisei. Of the fifty-five

Commissioners present, only about four or five were Nisei. This meeting was held on Thursday, December 3. The disturbance was on Saturday, December 6.

By December 6, Mr. Merritt, the new Project Director was on duty only twelve days. No doubt, many of the "Blood Brothers" were spotted among the new Commission.

The term "Blood-Brothers" has now been discarded, I believe, for "The Black Dragon."

(cont. from Page 32)

of the teachers who had gone to inquire about those who were shot was told by the doctors there that the statement of all victims being shot in the back was false.

December 14:- At noon today, an announcement was made during lunch that Mr. Merritt and Captain Hall of the Military Police would meet with representatives of the people of Manzanar. The group to meet them was supposed to be composed of three representatives from each block. After the announcements was made, the speaker said that the three "representatives" were already chosen. Without mentioning the names of the people, he asked whether the choice was acceptable to the block members. Many people acquiesced. Then, the names were disclosed — all Kibei. There was general applause, so that settled that.

The meeting is scheduled for this afternoon.

The meeting was held and four people, Ozamoto, Masunaka, Murakami, and Ikkanda, were chosen to represent the body in meetings with the local Administration. Those four are supposed to represent all the people of Manzanar.

December 15 — routine day

December 16 — Since most of the people are not wearing black bands on their arms, I discarded mine. Someone was attacked this afternoon by a gang of ruffians. The person who was assaulted was suspected by the group to be an informer for the F.B.I. How true that is, no one knows.

December 17 — This morning, a "meeting" was called for the Nisei members of this block. 12—15 Nisei showed up. A Kibei (who is one of the dominant party in Manzanar, undoubtedly) was in charge. He said that two Nisei went to Mr. Merritt's office to say that the four people on the Negotiations Committee (Ozamoto, etc) were not representative of all the Nisei in the Center. This, of course, confused Merritt which in turn confused the Negotiations Committee. Things were finally ironed out. The Kibei in charge of this ~~morn~~ morning's meeting said that double-crossers are not wanted. He also said that all questions, suggestions and the like should go through the organization which is "representing all the people in Manzanar."

Telegram from outside saying same,

Questions which regarded the policies and stands of the group "representing all the people of Manzanar" were not answered very well. The speakers didn't know much. Undoubtedly, there are no definite policies or issues set up. Again, any type of work was discouraged. No one seems to know the stand of the administration.

This is really a glimpse of the freedom of totalitarian Japan or

Germany. A small clique is running the Center.

Mail is not distributed to us now. All persons desiring mail must stand in line at the General Delivery window of the Post-Office. The current rumor explaining this move on the part of the Administration sounds very plausible. It is that in the former method of mail distribution, ~~some per~~ the mail for each block was left at the Block Manager's office. With such a system, people could very easily look into other persons' mails. It is suspected that this was done.

Another thing of interest is that the organization "representing all the people of Manzanar" wants all outgoing mail to clear through their offices. Presumably, ~~they~~ it wants to read the letters which are posted. What marvelous lives we lead!

The Spanish Consul Co~~u~~nsel is in Manzanar. Nisei have not been encouraged to see him. Apparently, he is on a routine visit of all centers.

December 18 — An announcement was made this evening regarding a meeting which was held this afternoon with the Spanish Consul in attendance. We are to go back to work tomorrow (Saturday). The details are not clear as yet, but the main point is that something was done in the form of mediation. I wonder what will follow.

December 19 — At 8:15 a.m., I was in the Community Services Division Office. The entire place was much ~~more of~~ changed. Desks and chairs were moved out and ~~so~~ the desks which remained were re-arranged. No one was working and about seven people were gathered around one of the stoves. Mr. Temple, George Akahoshi, & Barbara Dougherty were not yet there. Finally, Miss Dougherty (Mr. Temple's secretary) came to the office a little before 9:00. She told about five of us that everything was still in a big mess. There is to be reorganization of every department in the Center. Non-essential workers will not be rehired. Then, she told us that all of us were already off the "payroll" by administrative orders. Naturally, that stunned us.

It seems that directly as a result of the outbreak a complete change of administrative policies in regard to work in the various departments ~~is one of it~~ in order. Some department will be enlarged and others will have to be decreased. This re-organization will be felt in all of the departments so a great many people will be put out of jobs. What will be done to provide employment for them is not clear. So, today when we all went back to our jobs expecting to pick up where we left off two weeks ago, we were disappointed to discover that our positions were no longer open. A bitter potion to swallow. All this time, we were waiting and eager to work, but we were held back. On the first day of work, we find that it isn't our first day of work. Irony!

~~Even~~ Even the administration has undergone a few changes. Two of which I know are: (1) Temple is out as Chief of Community Services + (2) Bob Brown is Acting Assistant Project Director. Other changes will make themselves known soon, no doubt.

The Education Department is also hit by this. Dr. Carter does not know what lies within her jurisdiction now. The school set-up, system of teaching, will be changed. Some teachers have been offered other jobs. Everything there is also in a mess.

Now, it will be up to the various department heads to figure out which people are essential and rehire persons on that basis. Many of the workers seem to be cynical. Today, the general feeling at the office was the tight, expectant, tense feeling of December 8, 1941.

As an indication of the tenseness of spirit, here is what happened at our mess-hall this afternoon shortly before lunch was served:

The time-keeper (who keeps a ~~track~~ record of ~~all~~ number of persons eating at the mess hall at each meal) and a ~~junior~~ mess hall cook was in an argument over a very small point. That point was that the cook accused the time-keeper of allowing people to eat in the mess-hall who did not live in the block. In normal times, this quarrel would have stopped soon. However, in this case, the argument must have reached some sort of a climax — the timekeeper came out second best with a gash in his head. Later, apologies ~~and~~ were made and undoubtedly accepted, but the fact remains that a small thing led to a fight between two grown men. How must the rest of the population of Manzanar feel if this can be taken as typical. As a rule, the time-keeper is a mild, nice gentle-men. What has happened to these

two people can very well happen to more. Is another riot on its way? Given the leaders (many rabble-rousers remain in camp of course), will the people forget themselves? I hope not, but only time can tell!

December 20 — Today, the two Co-op stores ~~o~~ re-opened their doors for business. And what Business — people rushed to the stores in hordes. It was orderly though. People stood in lines (getting to be a habit now) for the privilege of going into the stores to buy. Some people waited an hour or so. The stores were really stampeded.

This evening, an announcement was made at the mess-hall (interrupting supper) by the Block Manager. Tomorrow morning (9:00 am) at Mess Hall #1, there is to be a meeting for all those who lost their jobs. Also, ~~the~~ funeral services for the two peoples who were killed ~~are~~ to be held tomorrow. In memory of the two dead, all mess-hall bells are to be rung for two minutes beginning 1:00 pm. tomorrow.

Kibei boys were not so polite. Still a lot of yelling & stuff.

December 21:- The meeting at Mess-hall #1 turned out "stinko." We learned that the Camouflage Nets Project is out. The garment factory will take over at the Camouflage site. Other projects which will be pushed were said to be furniture-making and ceramics. All persons on the ~~sew~~ garment making project will be encouraged to relocate after a three month training period,

People who lost their jobs because of the recent incident were told to register at the Personnel Office for work.

December 22 — Today, I registered for work. Preference — Adult Education

December 23 — According to an announcement, if the people who registered for re-assignment fail to get work within two weeks, sixty percent of wages will be paid perhaps. This is yet uncertain, but the announcement was made at lunch-time.

December 25 — According to the Manzanar Free Press (the first issue since the trouble), the sixty percent of wage business is true. The sixty percent (unemployment compensation) begins fifteen days after filing for a job if a person is still unemployed.

Last night, small Christmas parties were held at various blocks for the children. A group of about 150 persons went Christmas caroling. A good time was had by all. We sang at the Hospital, Children's Village, block parties, and at the Administration Housing. At the Project Director's apartment, a small cup of apple cider was given to each caroler. It was a nice gesture on Mr. Merritt's part.

December 26 — I have discovered that I have not lost my job yet. I have been on the roll for the entire month of December with the exception of two weeks.

I have obtained the position of Assistant Supervisor of Adult Education activities. What this position entails, I do not know yet. Correction — Supervisor of Planning & Program Development. That's me.

Jan. ~~3~~ 4:- There was a notice posted today on the Mess-hall wall which is used as a bulletin board. The Negotiation Committee met yesterday (Sunday) with Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, and E.R. Fryer, Assistant Regional Director. A hearing is to be granted for the people still in custody.

School was supposed to begin today, but the ~~s~~ re-opening was post-poned one week.

Today, we received our July Clothing allowance in cash. Each person over the age of 18 received $3.75.

Jan 5:- The story today is that six men were taken by the Military Police yesterday afternoon. Sounds authentic.

Jan. 10:— Worked like a beaver at Adult Education Furniture sale for Carpentry class. Jan 9:- overtime 12—5 6—8
Jan 10:- overtime 9—7

Total sale $200+. My sale $100+.

Today, a notice at the Mess hall declared that the suspects who were taken in are now at the Moab Relocation Center in Utah pending hearings.

Jan 11:— School opening was postponed again. Reasons? ? Adult Education classes ~~only~~ are beginning tonight. Registration for Manzanar Junior College started today and will continue for a week.

Jan. 18:— High school opened. Some new teachers are in. Some old teachers are out.

Jan 22:— Terrible wind & rain storm since yesterday. Snowing in mountains. Got clothing allowance of 7.50 for Aug & Sept 1942.

Feb 1:– Shiz received letter from National Student Relocation Committee saying that he was accepted at the Illinois Institute of Technology. He received a grant of $700.

Feb. 2:– ~~Rec~~ Shiz received notification of FBI clearance.

Feb 4:– Shigeo Hori left Manzanar at approximately 5:00 pm on the northbound Inland Stage for Chicago.

Feb 11:– A visiting team of army men (3 sergeants and 1 1st Lieutenant) is visiting the center. Registration is to be held for a week. All persons (citizens, aliens, men, + women) over 17 must register. Opportunity is given for voluntary enlistment into the Army.

March 14:– Brush fire south of Manzanar. Paul Ichino & I went to quell some of it. Some fun.

Feb 18:– Volunteered for Army.

~~[illegible]~~ March 16 – Henry Ishizuka left for Chicago

March 17 – Had small get-together at home of Chie and Sachi Okazaki. Those present included, Sachi and Chie, Sakae Hirooka, Frank Y. Takahashi, Akira Hara, Mr. Charles K. Ferguson, Masaye Nakahira, Sam Hohri, Aki Saito, and Kazuko Suzuki. PHK also there

March 18 – A party for those who volunteered was given at Mess Hall 32. I think that the hosts were George Fujino and Joan Fukuda.

March 19 – The Administration gave the volunteers a banquet at Mess hall 1. ~~Mr~~ Mr Ralph P. Merritt spoke a few words rather well. Ken Onodera represented the volunteers ~~+~~ in a short three sentence talk. He was nervous, but his silence was eloquent.

March 20. – The Education Department gave the volunteers from that department a party at 29-15. We had square Dancing and the Virginia Reel. Mr. and Mrs. Nielson (Head, Recreation Dept.) showed movies taken of Manzanar and Lone Pine. A phonograph record was cut. Those speaking included Mrs. Nielson, Dr. Carter, Frank Katada, Joe Maruyama, Swish (Shuichi) Ogura, Paul Ichino, Honey Toda, Chiz Nakaji, Sam Hohri, Frank Takahashi, Sakae Hirooka, and PHK.

March 21 — Today, Sunday, is Pioneer Day in Manzanar as well as being the first day of Spring. Paul Ichino, Chiz Nakaji, and I attended three church services this morning — Catholic, Buddhist, and Protestant. In the afternoon, Paul and I went to the Okazaki House (32-11-4) to hear records.

March 22 — Today, I found out that the volunteers will be given their physical Examinations in Manzanar beginning on or about April 1. Previously, we were under the impression that we were to go to Salt Lake City for that. At first, induction was supposed to begin on about March 1. Then, ~~Ap~~ March 15, then April 1. This last sounds rather close to the truth. We have received our clothing allowances up to February. I got $18.75.

March 24: Wed. Recently graduated high school students met with Helen Ely, Miss Most (H.S. teacher), Charles K. Ferguson (Director Adult Ed.), Aki Saito (Ex. Sec'y of Inter Collegiate Assoc.

Frank Y. Takahashi, Sam Hohri, and I attended the meeting. It was lousy — typical H.S. gathering. How stinky to think that those people will take over the I.C.A. Some of the people showed promise, but the majority seemed immature.

March 27 — Sat. — Adult Ed. banquet at 19-15. A heck of a lot of work, but a lot of fun at the same time. Honored guest was Frank Y. Takahashi who is leaving for New York in a few days — [illegible] Tues. 3/30. The Project Director Ralph P. Merritt spoke.

March 31 — Physical examination for Army. Rejected because of bum vision. Normal 20/20
PHK 20/600

To qualify for limited service, one needs vision of at least 20/400.

April 2. Fri — Frank Takahashi left for Chicago Illinois. He could not go earlier because of delay in receipt of pass.

April 2 Fri— Sent letter to 544 E. Orange Grove Ave— Friends Service Committee asking about Hostel.

April 3 Sat — Sent letter to Mr. Thomas M Temple in Chicago to find out about chances for jobs.

~~May~~ April 27— 12 men went to Army from Manzanar. At 4:50 a.m. they left on the north-bound bus for Reno. From there, they will go on to Salt Lake City & Ft. Douglas. Utah. Among those going were Ken Onodera and Swish Shuichi Ogura.

May 26:— Leaving today for Chicago Friends Hostel.

May 30— Arrived Chicago Northwest Station Met by Miss Muriel Ferguson of Friends. Went to Meadville Theological School Men's Home to live.

5659 So. Woodlawn.

June 1— Looked for job through United States Employment Service. Friends doesn't help much.

June 2— started work at A.J. Cox & Co. Book Bindery

Wages 50¢ hr for first week.

Then 62½¢. 40 hr week.

June 5:— Quit work at Cox's after three days.

June 9:— After tramping around Chicago to find a job, finally ended up at Cuneo's Printing Co. John F Cunis Printing Co.

Wage 50¢ ~~ok~~ hour for first week.

62½¢ after first week.

Working as laborer.

June 10:— Moved from Theological School to 1900 W. Jackson Blvd. Living next door to Shig.

PHK — Rm 28 Shig — Rm 29.

June 18:— Received first pay of 11.68.

June 19:— Bought sport suit.

To go to Milwaukee tomorrow Sunday for visit.

June 17 – June 31 — $7.75 8/14

43/77 July 1 – July 30 – 16.00 9/1

Aug 1 — Aug 31 – 16.00 10/15

35¢

Sept 1 — Sept 30 – 16.00

Oct 1 — Oct 30 – 16.00

Nov 1 — Nov 30 – 16.00 1/6

Dec 1 — Dec 30 – 12.27 1/22

Jan 1 — Jan 31 – 19.00

Feb 1 — Feb 28 – 19.00

CAMP EARNINGS